



HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

TO: H-GAC Board of Directors

SUBJECT: Board Report FROM: Chuck Wemple DATE: June 9, 2021

I'm looking forward to our Board of Directors Meeting next week. This month will mark our first hybrid meeting. The majority of you will still attend virtually, while a small group will attend in person. Please plan to participate virtually and do not travel to our office unless we have confirmed that you will be part of the limited-seating group. We hope to have more capacity in July. The June 2021 Board packet is attached for your review. A summary is included below.

Consent Agenda – The consent agenda includes eight items that are routine, continuation of ongoing activities, and/or opportunities to expand our service to the region. The combined items represent just over \$8.8 million in contracts.

We have two items this month: continuation of the Tow and Go Program and equipment purchases for our pedestrian and bicyclist work. Contract amounts are \$4,020,000 and \$100,000, respectively.

Establishing Livable Centers is one of the implementation strategies of H-GAC's 2045 Regional Transportation Plan. The aim of this strategy is to create more walkable, mixed-use places that provide a variety of mobility options. We have completed our contractor selection for our 38th study, which will be located in southwest Houston. Amount \$303,125.

We are seeking approval to continue our highly successful solid waste management program, which provides grants directly to local governments from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Example projects include litter and illegal dumping cleanup, household hazardous waste, and recycling centers. Contract amount \$2,013,328.

We need to ensure our workforce office locations can accommodate vocational rehabilitation clients and will be conducting renovations and build outs at two locations and relocating one center. Contract amount of \$2,200,000.

The consent agenda also includes approval of the May 2021 Board Meeting minutes, continuation of our water quality planning agreement with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and an increase in our workforce childcare program.

Finance and Budget Committee – will meet at **9:15 a.m.** to consider the monthly financial report, the results of our annual audit, our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2020, and other finance-related items on the Board agenda. Members of the committee will receive a committee agenda and meeting notice, in addition to the general Board packet.

Audit Committee – The audit committee met on June 8 to review the H-GAC 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and the 2020 Employee Retirement Plan and will present a recommendation to the Board for possible action.

Workforce System Contract – The construction industry is an important sector in the greater Houston-Gulf Coast economy with more than 206,000 jobs in residential, commercial, industrial, and heavy/civil construction. We are requesting authorization to negotiate a contract with Construction Career Collaborative to train and upskill new workers in the amount of \$364,511.

Community & Environmental Planning – H-GAC is the lead agency responsible for implementing the Texas Clean Rivers Program across our 13-county region. Our water quality monitoring agreement is up for renewal, along with partnership agreements, and a contract for laboratory services. H-GAC is a flagship program for our partners at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and is one of the most efficient in the State. Contract amounts of \$1,931,230, \$292, 625, and \$127,000. Our program staff have prepared a presentation to raise the Board's awareness of this important program.

Water Resources Committee – The Water Resources Committee met on June 9 to recommend the addition of the Brazos River Pinch Point Project to Tier 1 of the H-GAC Priority Flood Mitigation Projects list and to discuss other issues of regional significance.

H-GAC Advisory Committee Appointments – H-GAC Advisory Committees are appointed by H-GAC's Board as a whole, based upon nominations from individual Board members and other groups. This month we have several nominations to five committees for your consideration. The committees include: Aging and Disability Advisory Committee, Gulf Coast Economic Development District, Regional Air Quality Planning Advisory Committee, Regional Flood Management Committee, and Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Council.

Legislative Committee – will meet at **8:30 a.m.** to receive a post-session report following the adjournment of the 87th Legislative Session. Members of the committee will receive a committee agenda and meeting notice, in addition to the general Board meeting packet.

Spotlight – Our spotlight this month will focus on bacteria reduction plans to improve the water quality in our region.

I appreciate your engagement and deliberation on the important action items before us. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the agenda items.

CW/ma



AGENDA HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING June 15, 2021 10:00 AM https://zoom.us/webinar/register/ WN ojpCJVUXRnSTWJhaQ-1pvg

- 1. INVOCATION
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT Members of the public may participate in person at 3555

 Timmons Lane in Houston by pre-registering or by sending comments to

 BoardPublicComments@h-gac.com; by joining online via our website; or by dialing 1877-853-5247 or 1-888-788-0099 (Meeting ID 944 5677 8371; Participant ID
 347703; Passcode 245660)
- 4. DECLARE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

ACTION

5. <u>CONSENT AGENDA</u>

Items listed are of a routine nature and may be acted on in a single motion unless requested otherwise by a member of the Board.

a. <u>H-GAC BOARD MEETING MINUTES – MAY 18, 2021</u>

Request approval of the minutes of the May 18, 2021 H-GAC Board Meeting. (Staff Contact: Rick Guerrero)

b. TOW AND GO PROGRAM – CITY OF HOUSTON

Request authorization to enter an interlocal agreement with the City of Houston for the Tow and Go Program; total amount is \$4,020,000. (Staff Contact: Craig Raborn)

c. PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLIST COUNTERS

Request authorization to negotiate the purchase of permanent and mobile counting equipment from the above companies in the order presented; total amount is \$100,000. (Staff Contact: Craig Raborn)

d. LIVABLE CENTERS STUDY – CITY OF HOUSTON, SOUTHWEST

Request authorization to contract with firms in order ranked to conduct Livable Centers Study for the City of Houston, Southwest; total amount is \$303,125. (Staff Contact: Jeff Taebel)

e. WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Request approval to contract with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to conduct regional water quality planning activities; total amount is \$136,588. (Staff Contact: Jeff Taebel)

f. <u>SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM – FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023</u>

Request adoption of resolution approving application submittal and authorization

of contract with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for fiscal year 2022-2023 solid waste management implementation program in the amount of \$2,013,328. (Staff Contact: Jeff Taebel)

g. WORKFORCE SYSTEM CONTRACT AMENDMENT – BAKER RIPLEY

Request authorization to increase funding for the BakerRipley Career Office contract by \$2,200,000; total amount is \$25,600,000. (Staff Contact: Mike Temple)

Request authorization to increase contract with Learning Designs by up to \$50,000; total contract amount is \$979,668. (Staff Contact: Mike Temple)

6. FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

Report on activities and Committee recommendations.

a. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – MAY 2021

Request approval of the monthly financial report ending May 31, 2021. (Staff Contact: Nancy Haussler)

7. AUDIT COMMITTEE

a. COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Request approval of the 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. (Staff Contact: Nancy Haussler)

b. <u>EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN AUDIT</u>

Request approval of the 2020 Employee Retirement Plan. (Staff Contact: Nancy Haussler)

8. <u>HUMAN SERVICES</u>

a. <u>WORKFORCE SYSTEM CONTRACT – CONSTRUCTION CAREER</u> <u>COLLABORATIVE</u>

Request authorization to contract with Construction Career Collaborative; total amount is \$364,511 in the first year, with an option to renew for two additional years. (Staff Contact: Mike Temple)

9. COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

a. <u>CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 WORK PROGRAM</u>

Request authorization to contract with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for regional water quality monitoring; total amount is \$1,931,230. (Staff Contact: Todd Running)

b. <u>CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM WATER QUALITY MONITORING</u> <u>SUBCONTRACTS</u>

Request authorization to contract with the City of Houston Department of Health and Human Services, Environmental Institute of Houston; University of Houston-Clear Lake; and the Texas Research Institute for Environmental Studies for Water Quality Monitoring Services; combined total amount is \$292,625. (Staff Contact: Todd Running)

c. <u>CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM LABORATORY SUBCONTRACT</u>

Request authorization to execute contract with Eastex Environmental Laboratory; total amount is \$127,000. (Staff Contact: Todd Running)

10. WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

a. WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE UPDATE

Discussion and possible action on Water Resources Committee recommendations. (Staff Contact: Jeff Taebel)

11. H-GAC ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

a. H-GAC 2021 ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Request approval of appointments to H-GAC advisory committees. (Staff Contact: Rick Guerrero)

12. <u>LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE</u>

a. <u>LEGISLATIVE UPDATE</u>

Report from Legislative Committee. No action necessary. (Contact: Chair, Judge Nate McDonald)

INFORMATION

13. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. <u>H-GAC SPOTLIGHT – REGIONAL BACTERIA REDUCTION PLANS</u>

No action requested. For information only. (Staff Contact: Steven Johnston)

b. CURRENT AND UPCOMING H-GAC ACTIVITIES

Report on current and upcoming H-GAC activities. (Staff Contact: Chuck Wemple)

14. ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, H-GAC will provide for reasonable accommodations for persons attending H-GAC functions. Requests should be received by H-GAC 24 hours prior to the function.

H-GAC BOARD MEETING MINUTES – MAY 18, 2021

Background

The H-GAC Board of Directors convenes on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Meeting minutes are prepared following each Board meeting to summarize any action taken and document the attendance of Board members.

Current Situation

A summary of the May 18 meeting of the H-GAC Board of Directors is attached and recommended for approval.

Funding Source

N/A

Budgeted

N/A

Action Requested

Request approval of the minutes of the May 18, 2021 H-GAC Board Meeting. (Staff Contact: Rick Guerrero)

ATTACHMENTS:

Board Meeting Minutes - May 18 2021

Cover Memo

MEETING MINUTES H-GAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS May 18, 2021

ATTENDANCE ROSTER

The following members of the Board of Directors (Board) of the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) attended all or a portion of the May 18, 2021 Board meeting, via webinar and/or teleconference:

Brazoria County Commissioner Stacy Adams Fort Bend County Commissioner Andy Meyers

Galveston County Commissioner Ken Clark Liberty County Judge Jay Knight Matagorda County Judge Nate McDonald Walker County Commissioner Jimmy Henry Waller County Judge Trey Duhon Wharton County Judge Phillip Spenrath

City of Baytown Council Member Charles Johnson

City of Conroe Mayor Pro Tem Raymond McDonald

City of Deer Park Councilman Bill Patterson City of Friendswood Councilmember Sally Branson

City of Galveston Mayor Dr. Craig Brown City of Houston Council Member Sallie Alcorn

City of Huntsville Mayor Andy Brauninger

City of La Porte Councilmember Chuck Engelken

City of League City Council Member Larry Millican

City of Missouri City Council Member Jeffrey Boney

City of Sugar Land Mayor Joe Zimmerman City of Texas City Commissioner Jami Clark

Home Rule Cities (Less than 25,000): City of Dickinson Councilmember William King III

City of Sealy Mayor Carolyn Bilski

General Law Cities:

City of Waller Council Member Nancy Arnold

City of Pattison Mayor Joe Garcia

Independent School Districts:
Huntsville ISD Trustee Rissie Owens

The following Board members were not marked in attendance at the May 18, 2021 Board meeting:

Austin County Judge Tim Lapham Chambers County Commissioner Mark Tice Colorado County Judge Ty Prause Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo Montgomery County Commissioner Charlie Riley City of Houston Council Member Letitia
Plummer

City of Lake Jackson Mayor Gerald Roznovsky

City of Pasadena Councilmember Cary Bass City of Pearland Mayor Kevin Cole

City of Rosenberg Mayor William Benton

CALL TO ORDER

The Board Chair, Wharton County Judge Phillip Spenrath, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 via webinar and teleconference at 1-877-853-5247.

ROLL CALL

Chair Spenrath asked Rick Guerrero, Houston-Galveston Area Council Director of Intergovernmental Relations, to conduct the Board of Directors roll call. Mr. Guerrero conducted the roll call and announced that a quorum was present. Mr. Guerrero then welcomed several special guests, including Brooke Bacuetes and Shannon Longoria from the General Land Office; Ben DeLeon from Senator Cornyn's office and Jason Fuller from Senator Cruz's office. Two of our H-GAC Board Alternates were also present – City of Bunker Hill Village Councilmember Susan Schwartz and City of Missouri City Council Member Lynn Clouser.

1. INVOCATION

Matagorda County Judge Nate McDonald gave the invocation.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Waller County Judge Trey Duhon led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the Texas Flag.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Spenrath invited comments from any members of the public who wished to participate during the call and asked Mr. Guerrero if any public comments had been received via email prior to the meeting. Mr. Guerrero stated that we had not received any public comments via the email address posted publicly. He then opened the floor for public comments to those who had joined the meeting via webinar or teleconference. Mr. Guerrero announced if there was anyone on the line who would like to make a public comment, they could do so now by stating their name and they will have three minutes to make a public comment. He asked them to unmute their microphones at this time. There were no additional public comments.

4. DECLARE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Chair Spenrath called for any Board member with a conflict of interest to declare it at that time. There being none, Chair Spenrath proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Spenrath called for the Consent Agenda and asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he entertained motions from the floor for approval of the twelve items on the Consent Agenda.

City of Sugar Land Mayor Joe Zimmerman moved to approve the consent agenda. Brazoria County Commissioner Stacy Adams seconded the motion. Chair Spenrath then called for a vote which resulted in unanimous approval by all members present.

The following items were acted on by approval of the consent agenda:

- **a.** H-GAC BOARD MEETING MINUTES April 20, 2021 approved the minutes of the April 20, 2021 H-GAC Board Meeting.
- b. HGACBUY TEMPORARY STAFFING, DIRECT-HIRE AND OTHER

EMPLOYER SERVICES – authorized to negotiate a contract with respondents listed in the Contract Award Recommendation Table for temporary staffing, direct-hire and other employer services.

- c. REGIONAL JUVENILE SERVICES PROJECT FISCAL YEAR 2022 authorized to submit an application for fiscal year 2022 Regional Juvenile Mental Health Services project; amount not to exceed \$136,126.
- **d. REGIONAL HOMELAND SECURITY PLANNING INITIATIVE** authorized to submit an application for fiscal year 2021 Regional Homeland Security Planning Initiative; amount not to exceed \$192,340.
- e. CHILD PASSENGER BICYCLE SAFETY EDUCATION & OUTREACH authorized to extend the contract and increase the contract amount with Texas Children's Hospital Center for Childhood Injury Prevention by \$50,000 to continue conducting child passenger and bicycle safety outreach; total contract amount not to exceed \$210,000.
- f. TEENS IN THE DRIVER SEAT PROGRAM authorized to extend the contract period and increase the contract amount with Texas A&M Transportation Institute by \$65,000 for the Teens in the Driver Seat program; total contract amount not to exceed \$255,000.
- g. TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD PROJECTS authorized to amend existing contract with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to continue implementation of Regional Bacteria Reduction Plan and provide technical support; amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.
- **h. WORKFORCE FINANCIAL MONITORING CONTRACTS** authorized to negotiate workforce financial monitoring contracts with Weaver and Tidwell LLC and Christine Nguyen, CPA for a third year; total for both contracts not to exceed \$975,000.
- i. WORKFORCE PAYROLL CONTRACT authorized to increase contract with ProSource Solutions Inc. and extend contract end date to September 30, 2021 for service to 300 vocational rehabilitation customers; total amount not to exceed \$825,000.

6. FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

a. Monthly Financial Report - April 2021

Galveston County Commissioner Kenneth Clark, Board Vice Chair, recognized Nancy Haussler, H-GAC Chief Financial Officer, to present the Financial Report for April 2021. Ms. Haussler presented the Financial Status Report through the month of April 2021. She stated that collection of membership dues was down for this time of the year; however, additional dues were slated to arrive later in the week. She was hopeful that by next month our membership dues would be substantially completed. Ms. Haussler moved on to our Energy Purchasing Corporation and explained revenues were down due to participants finding more ways to be efficient with their electricity hence their usage is less. Our Cooperative Purchasing fees are tracking where they normally are by April and by next month she would forecast for the year to date. Gulf Coast Regional 911 fees were up, interest income is earning almost nothing and there were small differences in our State and Federal grants. She stated the summer is the busiest time for our grant programs and she expected that these would pick up soon.

Ms. Haussler asked if there were any questions on the Financial Report. There being none, City of Dickinson Councilmember William King, III moved to approve and Fort Bend County Commissioner Andy Meyers seconded the motion. Chair Spenrath called for the vote, which resulted in unanimous approval by all members present.

b. Investment Report – First Quarter 2021

Once again Vice Chair Clark recognized Ms. Haussler to present the Financial Investment Report through the first quarter 2021. She stated H-GAC has substantial investments but are not earning much. Our investments are required by law to be consistent with the Public Funds Investment Act, which requires us to protect the principal of the investment first, so we avoid a risky environment. These investments are low in earnings but when interest rates improve our returns will improve. Ms. Haussler asked for approval of the Financial Investment Report.

Vice Chair Clark asked for a motion to approve the First Quarterly Investment Report. City of Friendswood Councilmember Sally Branson moved to approve, and Mayor Zimmerman seconded the motion. Chair Spenrath called for the vote, which resulted in unanimous approval by all members present.

7. ELDER JUSTICE

a. Elder Justice Program – Fiscal Year 2022

Chair Spenrath recognized Ronnie Barnes, Director of Public Services. Mr. Barnes requested authorization to submit an application for fiscal year 2022 Victims of Crime Act funding; amount not to exceed \$407,286.

Mr. Barnes began his presentation by stating the goal of the program was to protect and support victims by building a coordinated community response to those that have suffered from elder abuse. The Elder Justice program along with the Victims of Crime Act funding allows us to provide services and field gaps in those services to victims of elderly abuse crime. Most of these crimes are fraud and financially related, however, there has been an increase in physical abuse as well. He did clarify that this program and funding will solely focus on providing service gaps and access to legal representation to legal tools, such as power of attorney, protective orders and relocation of elderly abused victims.

There being no further questions Chair Spenrath asked for a motion to approve this item. Commissioner Meyers moved to approve, and Councilmember King seconded the motion. Chair Spenrath called for the vote, which resulted in unanimous approval by all members present.

b. H-GAC Center on Abuse in Later Life

Mr. Barnes continued onto item B of his presentation, requesting authorization to submit an application for fiscal year 2022 Violence Against Women Act funding; amount not to exceed \$324,845.

He stated this program would assist multidisciplinary teams such as, law enforcement, victims' advocates, judges, prosecutors, EMTs and ER personnel to recognize, intervene, and document incidents of elderly abuse and properly prosecute those guilty individuals. The additional funding will allow us to expand our direct and complimentary services to four more counties: Chambers, Liberty, Matagorda and Wharton, we currently provide services to Harris, Fort Bend, Galveston and Montgomery counties. Mr. Barnes concluded his presentation by requesting approval of his request of items a and b and if there were any questions. City of Sealy

Mayor Carolyn Bilski asked if one of Austin County's programs, such as Meals on Wheels, became aware of a need could they reach out to their neighbor Wharton County for services? Mr. Barnes responded yes to her question.

Chair Spenrath then asked for a motion to approve this item. Commissioner Meyers moved to approve, and Councilmember Branson seconded the motion. Chair Spenrath called for the vote, which resulted in unanimous approval by all members present.

8. LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

a. Law Enforcement Training – Fiscal Years 2022-2023

Chair Spenrath once again recognized Ronnie Barnes, Director of Public Services. Mr. Barnes requested authorization to contract with recommended providers for law enforcement training programs; amount not to exceed \$932,400.

Mr. Barnes began his presentation by stating this was one of H-GAC's longstanding programs, which has spanned over 30 years. This program allows H-GAC to contract with certified providers, training academies and other providers that meet the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Certification standards for training. These academies provide basic peace officer, intermediate and advanced law enforcement training to individuals throughout the region. This funding will be used to reimburse the law enforcement agencies up to 60% of the cost of training and we will continue to provide that training to almost 2,500 officers in over 90,000 service hours on an annual basis. Mr. Barnes asked for approval of this request and opened the floor to questions.

Chair Spenrath called for a motion to approve the request. City of Missouri City Council Member Jeffrey Boney moved to approve, and Commissioner Meyers seconded the motion. Chair Spenrath called for the vote which resulted in unanimous approval by all members present.

9. PLANS AND PROJECTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

a. State Homeland Security Program Grant Funding – Fiscal Year 2021

Chair Spenrath recognized Plans and Projects Committee Chair Trey Duhon who stated the committee convened earlier in the morning to approve two items that were to be presented to the board for recommendation. Chair Duhon then recognized staff member Justin Riley, Senior Planner for Emergency Preparedness in Public Services to present the first item – State Homeland Security Program Grant Funding.

Mr. Riley began his presentation by stating that each of the councils of governments have a contractual relationship with the Office of the Governor to provide technical assistance to Homeland Security grant applicants and to make State Homeland Security Program funding recommendations to the Office of the Governor in the form of a ranked priority list, we are seeking approval of this list by the board. This priority list are recommendations only and the state will ultimately make all final funding decisions. The Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Council is an advisory committee to the H-GAC Board of Directors and is made up of thirteen representatives from each of the counties, City of Houston and four at-large members. The committee scored 33 projects and utilized the agreed upon scoresheet and projects were placed in order based upon their scores. Funding recommendations were made based on the following criteria: if projects were eligible for other funding streams, how well the project's scope and activities aligned with regional, state, and federal Homeland Security priorities. He ended his presentation by stating that a region allocation has not been received this year and it is difficult to estimate where the funding line with be due to a decreased congressional

allocation to the state, as well as changes to the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Chair Duhon called for a motion to approve. City Waller Council Member Nancy Arnold moved to approve, and Huntsville ISD Trustee Rissie Owens seconded the motion. Chair Spenrath called for the vote which resulted in unanimous approval by all members present.

b. Criminal Justice Funds – Fiscal Year 2022

Chair Duhon recognized Larry Smith, Public Safety Coordinator in Public Services to present the second item.

Mr. Smith began his presentation by stating these were recommendations from the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee for the following grant applications: Criminal Justice, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Truancy Prevention Programs, General Victims Assistance and Violence Against Women. The applicants were advised that the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee would score the applications and any addendums. Addendums explained an increase in the budget, and how the COVID-19 virus affected their academies or agencies and any other information that may not have been addressed in their application. The committee was divided into two ad hoc review committees. The first ad hoc scored only the Victims of Crime Act which consisted of 40 applications. The second ad hoc scored a total of 54 applications that fell to Violence Against Women, Juvenile Justice, Truancy and Criminal Justice. Once reviewed, scored, and prioritized the priority list is presented to the Justice Advisory Committee for unanimous approval.

Mr. Smith then referred to the provided list where he began to explain in more detail the breakdown of funding for each program. The Criminal Justice program applications 1-36 are eligible for funding with the region's allocation of \$2,257,012, applications 37 and 38 were not recommended for funding. The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency prevention applications 1-11 are eligible for funding with the allocation of \$696,099 and applications 12-25 are eligible for funding if funds are available. Truancy Prevention applications 1-8 are eligible for funding with the allocation of \$1,267,696; the General Victims Assistance program applications 1-77 are eligible for funding with the expected budget of \$25,146,633 and application 91 was not recommended for funding. And finally, the Violence Against Women applications 1-8 are eligible for funding with an allocation of \$1,071,821 and applications 9-13 are eligible for funding if there is additional funding provided. Mr. Smith ended his presentation and opened the floor to questions.

Chair Duhon moved to approve, and City of League City Council Member Larry Millican seconded the motion. Chair Duhon called for the vote, which resulted in unanimous approval by all members present.

10. H-GAC ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

a. H-GAC 2021 Advisory Committee Appointments

Chair Spenrath recognized Rick Guerrero, Director of Intergovernmental Relations to request approval of appointments to our H-GAC Advisory Committees. Mr. Guerrero took to the floor and presented 60 appointments for the board's consideration which included filling vacancies on the following committees: Aging and Disability, Area Emission Reduction Credit Organization, Local Development Corporation, Natural Resources Advisory, Regional Air Quality Planning, Regional Flood Management, Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Council and Solid Waste Management Committees.

Councilmember Nancy Arnold moved to approve, and Councilmember King seconded the motion. Chair Spenrath called for the vote, which resulted in unanimous approval by all members

present.

11. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

a. Legislative Update

Chair Spenrath recognized Matagorda County Judge Nate McDonald, Chair of the Legislative Committee. Judge McDonald reported that the Legislative Committee convened earlier in the morning with a quorum present to hear the details of the standing legislative agenda from both the state and federal levels. Judge McDonald then yielded the floor to Mr. Wemple, where he reminded the board of the weekly informal call where members are encouraged share information as to what is developing at the state and federal level. The call occurs every Thursday morning, except for board week. He informed the board that if anyone was interested in participating to please contact him, Michelle Anderson, his assistant, or Rick Guerrero to be added to the invitation list. Mr. Wemple reiterated that the call is informal, but very informative and allows for everyone to come together and share recent developments. Mr. Wemple mentioned H-GAC is working closely with the Texas Association of Regional Councils and the Executive Director Ginny Lewis Ford keep us regularly informed of any legislation that may affect our programs, councils, and governments in general and other important matters that may arise. H-GAC works very closely with the National Association of Regional Councils and there is lots of activity now focused on rulemaking and guidance from many agencies at the federal level. An example, the American Rescue Act, lots of funding available, however, it has not been decided what guidelines or amounts would be for "non-entitlement" communities, which are typically those under 50,000. As you look to accept these funds, there are several things to be aware of, such as new requirements put upon those funds that were not present before. Mr. Wemple stated that H-GAC is working on a webinar to better explain these new requirements. He also stated we are tracking activities being proposed with regards to the new rules regarding the census. There are deep concerns with the new definitions being used and how it could affect funding for some of our outlying county seats, outside our urban area and the urban area itself. After his comments Mr. Wemple then asked Mr. Guerrero to speak on specific legislation and allow other committee members to speak on the subject matter.

Mr. Guerrero began by stating there were 14 days left in the legislative session. The last day for House Committees to report Senate Bills out of those committees is May 22nd. The last day for the Senate to consider all bills and joint resolutions is Wednesday, May 26th. And the last day for the governor to sign and veto bills that were passed during the session will be June 20th. After providing those important dates for calendaring Mr. Guerrero proceeded to discuss bills that our legislative committee found of interest.

House Bill 631 was approved by the House Environmental Regulation Committee and placed on the General State Calendar. This bill removes the requirement for an applicant for a permit of hazardous or municipal solid waste facilities from obtaining a permit for the siting, construction, or operation of a municipal solid waste facility from the local government or political subdivision. Senate Bill 5 relates to the expansion of broadband services, this bill was approved by the Senate and currently sits in the House State Affairs Committee. House Joint Resolution 5 is a proposed constitutional amendment that would require the governor to call a special session to renew a declared State of Emergency. Senate Bill 10 was approved by the House State Affairs Committee on May 14th and it prohibits a county or municipality from using public money for lobbying activities. Senate Bill 1160 (Gulf Coast Protection District) was approved by the Senate and sent to the House and approved by the House National Resources Committee on May 4th and

was placed on the general and state calendar to be heard May 19th. House Bill 2539 (Low-Income Vehicle Repair Assistance Fund) was approved by the House & referred to the Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development Committee on May 14th. There was about \$80 million left in the fund and it would allow counties to partner with MPOs, such as H-GAC to utilize these funds to improve air quality through eligible projects. Mr. Guerrero concluded his presentation with House Bill 4072 which relates to the location of which certain sales are consummated for purposes of local sales and used taxes. There has not been movement on this bill as of April 23rd.

After Mr. Guerrero's presentation Judge Duhon asked, if bills were left in House Committee and were not voted out of the House by midnight on May 13th, they would be dead, unless they are tacked on as an amendment to other legislation? Mr. Guerrero responded yes to his question. With no further questions Chair McDonald stated that was the end of the legislative update and yielded the floor to Chair Spenrath.

12. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON H-GAC BOARD COMPOSITION

a. Select Committee Report – H-GAC Board Composition

Chair Spenrath recognized Councilmember King to give a report on the newly created special committee on the board composition.

Councilmember King stated the committee had a well-attended Zoom meeting the week before and complimented Mr. Wemple on his presentation at this orientation meeting concerning composition of our region and population. Councilmember King then yielded the floor to Mr. Wemple to expand on his presentation and other informational details.

Mr. Wemple briefly stated that last week's meeting was an orientation meeting where all members could start at a common base of knowledge. To allow them to learn what our current membership bylaws are, what the thresholds for membership are, what the distribution of votes are, the current population of our region, understand how we are set up, the work of the Committee (review the composition of the General Assembly and Board of Directors) and look at our fees. He mentioned that the committee will be working between now and September (release of census information) to look at a number of options. One option would be to leave our composition and our process as-is or look at changing that, which is yet to be determined. Any changes will be done in a thoughtful and considerate way, where all voices will be heard. As summer approaches, we will look at some options but continue to keep you all informed. Mr. Wemple concluded his presentation by opening the floor to questions. There being none, Chair Spenrath moved on to agenda item 13.

13. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. H-GAC Spotlight – Cybersecurity Assessment Services

Mr. Wemple recognized Tanya Nguyen, Director of Data Services. Ms. Nguyen began her presentation by stating the Information Technology Group was asked to assist another council of government conduct an independent review of their current network security and provide recommendations for improvements and best practices particularly with the protection of their personal information and data loss prevention.

She explained that this was H-GAC's first fee for service project and H-GAC was asked to perform this service because of our past working experience and our understanding of council of governments' operations. This assessment was conducted through a series of interviews with key staff, including, the Executive Director, Chief Financial Officer, Information Technology Director and managers from programs who control sensitive and private data. Our staff also evaluated their information systems policy and procedures document currently in place.

When we began our interview process, we followed the Texas Security Cybersecurity Framework guidelines and conducted our questions around that format. We analyzed the gap and vulnerability and the objective was to provide a high-level overview of the Vulnerability Assessment Report that included a Risk Assessment Recommendation for improvements and suggestions for best practices for protection and prevention of personal data loss. The review process was conducted 100% remotely and over a two-week period via Microsoft Teams. The summary of our assessment was presented to the Executive Director, and our intention was to provide a comprehensive, finding of vulnerability within the Agency Data Network so that they could use the report to strengthen their security protocols.

This was our first pilot project and we are looking to possibly expand this service to small government agencies within our region. Our goal is to help raise cybersecurity awareness and provide best practices for securing and managing information technology. This is an ongoing discussion and Ms. Nguyen stated that she will be happy to keep all updated on our progress.

b. Current and Upcoming H-GAC Activities

Mr. Wemple took to the floor to report on current and upcoming H-GAC activities. Mr. Wemple began with the organization preparing for hybrid board and committee meetings in mid-to-late June. H-GAC is planning on having a hybrid board meeting in June, and we will have more information for you all as that develops. We also look forward to having some of our staff returning on a voluntary basis in June and exploring new concepts such as a hybrid work schedule and shared office space.

Other items of importance Mr. Wemple spoke of was our broadband initiative including the convening of the Broadband Committee of the board in June, the American Rescue Act, the promising use of funds to help increase our storm water and flooding mitigation infrastructure in our region, and the impact the 2020 census will have on our region. Ending his report, Mr. Wemple mentioned major activity coming soon with our long-standing partners at the Economic Development Administration. These are known as the EDA or Economic Development Administration grants that many of you have received in the past. We are anticipating a level of funding we have not seen before coming to our region and we will keep you abreast of updates as they become available.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chair Spenrath adjourned the May Meeting of the H-GAC Board of Directors at 11:00 a.m.

TOWAND GO PROGRAM - CITY OF HOUSTON

Background

The Houston-Galveston Area Council's Metropolitan Planning Organization, in partnership with the City of Houston and Texas Department of Transportation, implemented the Tow and Go Program in 2018 to reduce congestion on local area freeways caused by stalled vehicles. The Tow and Go Program's goal is to quickly remove stalled vehicles from freeways to a nearby safe location with no direct cost to the motorist. The Tow and Go Program also supports the Vision Zero goals of the agencies through reduction of secondary crashes and fatalities. The program has been active for three years and completed over 92,000 tows. Average tow clearance time during 2020 was just over 16 minutes.

Current Situation

H-GAC works with the City of Houston for the towing and management of the Tow and Go Program. The Texas Department of Transportation has authorized the expenditure of these funds, which are budgeted in the Transportation Improvement Program. H-GAC is requesting authorization to enter an interlocal agreement with the City of Houston to continue the Tow and Go Program to fund administration and reimbursement of the tows provided at no direct cost to the stranded motorist. This agreement will extend the funding of Tow and Go program in Houston by 19 months, from October 2021 to May 2023.

Funding Source

Federal - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Funds

Budgeted

Yes

Action Requested

Request authorization to enter an interlocal agreement with the City of Houston for the Tow and Go Program; total amount is \$4,020,000. (Staff Contact: Craig Raborn)

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLIST COUNTERS

Background

The Houston-Galveston Area Council's Metropolitan Planning Organization collects, analyzes, and shares data on pedestrian and bicyclist activity through the Pedestrian and Bicyclist program. According to the 2019 American Community Survey, approximately 105,000 people in the region bicycle or walk to work. H-GAC's bicycle and pedestrian count data helps to guide future infrastructure investments and assist with policy recommendations related to multimodal transportation and safety in the region. H-GAC currently has 4 permanent counters within Houston and 4 additional mobile counters available for loan, to temporarily install them upon request for data collection in the eight-county Metropolitan Planning Area.

Current Situation

H-GAC seeks to expand its permanent and mobile counting equipment to better collect data in locations outside of Houston. In addition, some of the older equipment must be replaced due to ongoing maintenance issues. The cost per unit for bicycle and pedestrian counters is in the range of \$3,500 to \$8,000. This authorization will allow the purchase of approximately 8 new permanent and 10-12 mobile counters.

H-GAC issued a Request for Proposals in March 2021 and two proposals were received. The Proposal Review Committee recommended the following companies in the order presented below as vendors to purchase bicycle and pedestrian counter equipment:

- 1. Eco-Counter, Inc.
- 2. Smart Sensor Solutions, LLC.

Funding Source

Federal – Transportation Planning Funds

Budgeted

Yes

Action Requested

Request authorization to negotiate the purchase of permanent and mobile counting equipment from the above companies in the order presented; total amount is \$100,000. (Staff Contact: Craig Raborn)

LIVABLE CENTERS STUDY - CITY OF HOUSTON, SOUTHWEST

Background

Establishing Livable Centers is one of the implementation strategies of H-GAC's 2045 Regional Transportation Plan. The aim of this strategy is to create more walkable, mixed-use places that reduce reliance on single-vehicle occupancy. A total of thirty-four studies have been completed in the region and three more are currently underway.

Current Situation

The thirty-eighth Livable Centers study is ready to begin in Southwest Houston. The overall goal of the study is to formulate recommendations that will lead to a healthy, sustainable environment; accessible by multiple travel modes; and addresses the needs of residents, property owners, business owners and visitors. A committee comprised of representatives from H-GAC, Texas Department of Transportation, and City of Houston Council District K evaluated five proposals submitted by firms on May 10, 2021. Based on the committee's scoring and evaluation of the proposals as well as interviews, the committee's ranking is shown below:

- 1. Halff Associates, Inc.
- 2. Stantec
- 3. Asakura Robinson

Funding Source

Federal and Local

Budgeted

Yes

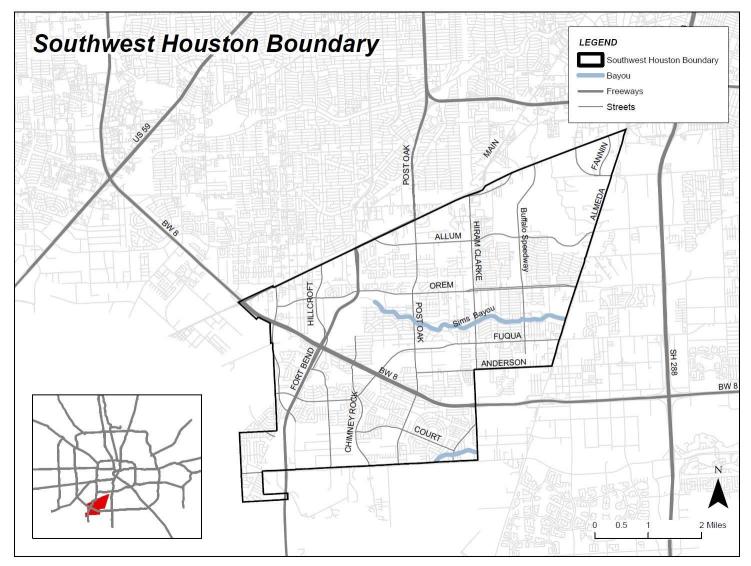
Action Requested

Request authorization to contract with firms in order ranked to conduct Livable Centers Study for the City of Houston, Southwest; total amount is \$303,125. (Staff Contact: Jeff Taebel)

ATTACHMENTS:

Southwest Livable Centers Boundary

Exhibit



WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Background

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality administers 604(b) planning funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Water Act. As the Governor-designated agency for water quality management planning in this region, H-GAC has had a long-standing contractual agreement with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to conduct water quality planning under this program. The activities of this annual project cover the entire 13-county H-GAC region.

Current Situation

The Fiscal Year 2022 Regional Water Quality Planning program contract will be effective September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022, and its major work elements include:

- Update the service area boundaries and wastewater treatment plant outfalls and reviewing discharge and overflow reporting data to support local and state wastewater planning efforts.
- Support the watershed protection planning efforts in the region.
- Facilitate the H-GAC's Natural Resources Advisory Committee.
- Review the funding applications to the Texas Water Development Board State Revolving Funds for concurrence with the water quality management plan, as requested by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.
- Continue the maintenance of H-GAC's regional onsite sewage system facilities (septic systems) database and administration of the Wastewater Assistance Program for the repair or replacement of failing septic tanks.
- Develop the regional Water Quality Management Plan Update for incorporation into the state's Water Quality Management Plan.

Funding Source

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Budgeted

Yes

Action Requested

Request approval to contract with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to conduct regional water quality planning activities; total amount is \$136,588. (Staff Contact: Jeff Taebel)

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM – FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023

Background

The Houston-Galveston Area Council will receive \$2,013,328 from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for solid waste administration, coordination, and implementation activities.

Current Situation

In September 2021, H-GAC will issue a Request for Applications for local government projects. Approximately \$1,000,000 will be available for local government projects. One Request for Applications will be issued for the biennium; however the committee may recommend altering the funding split or issue a second Request for Applications depending on the quantity and quality of applications received.

All eligible grant projects will need to support priorities identified in H-GAC's regional solid waste management plan. The grant categories are:

- Local enforcement
- Litter and illegal dumping cleanup and community collection events
- Source reduction and recycling
- Local solid waste management plans
- Citizens' collection stations and "small" registered transfer stations
- Household hazardous waste disposal
- Technical studies
- Educational and training projects

Funding Source

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Budgeted

Yes

Action Requested

Request adoption of resolution approving application submittal and authorization of contract with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for fiscal year 2022-2023 solid waste management implementation program in the amount of \$2,013,328. (Staff Contact: Jeff Taebel)

ATTACHMENTS:

WORKFORCE SYSTEM CONTRACT AMENDMENT – BAKER RIPLEY

Background

H-GAC, as fiscal agent for the Gulf Coast Workforce Board, contracts with multiple organizations to operate Workforce Solutions, the region's public workforce system. For the past several years, contractors operating career offices have been integrating staff of the Texas Vocational Rehabilitation Service into Workforce Solutions local offices. This integration results in a need to redo local office space to accommodate the additional staff and service and sometimes to move a location to find sufficient room.

Current Situation

Local non-profit BakerRipley operates 13 of the 29 career offices in the region. They have completed buildouts for three locations this year and are working on three additional sites.

Because changes to these offices are the result of integrating vocational rehabilitation services – operated at the state level by the Workforce Commission – we must request vocational rehabilitation funds from the Commission to complete office redesigns and relocations.

We are requesting authority to add \$2,200,000 in vocational rehabilitation funds to BakerRipley's career office contract for completion of buildouts in the Rosenberg and Houston Northeast offices and the relocation of the Harris County Southwest office.

Funding Source

Texas Workforce Commission Vocational Rehabilitation Service

Budgeted

Yes

Action Requested

Request authorization to increase funding for the BakerRipley Career Office contract by \$2,200,000; total amount is \$25,600,000. (Staff Contact: Mike Temple)

WORKFORCE SYSTEM CONTRACT AMENDMENT – LEARNING DESIGNS

Background

H-GAC, as the fiscal agent for the Gulf Coast Workforce Board, contracts with organizations to operate Workforce Solutions, the region's public workforce system. One of the services Workforce Solutions offers is financial assistance for working parents to help pay early education/childcare expenses. During the pandemic, many families had to give up this assistance because parents lost jobs. We saw our enrollments in early education fall. As the economy recovers and people return to work, we are experiencing a rising demand and an increasing number of applications for childcare assistance.

Current Situation

As of May 2021, our average daily attendance across the region for Workforce Solutions childcare is about 24,000. We have the funding to support up to 30,000.

Our experience tells us that we will have to review at least 12,000 new applications in a short period of time to enroll 6,000 additional children. We will need additional capacity in our application processing/eligibility determination systems to meet this goal.

We propose using Learning Designs, one of our existing Workforce Solutions contractors, to augment our capacity. With an additional \$50,000, Learning Designs will manage temporary employees who will process applications and determine families eligible for assistance.

Funding Source

Texas Workforce Commission

Budgeted

Yes

Action Requested

Request authorization to increase contract with Learning Designs by up to \$50,000; total contract amount is \$979,668. (Staff Contact: Mike Temple)

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – MAY 2021

ATTACHMENTS:

Monthly Financial Report - May 2021

PDF

HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT For the Five Months Ended May 2021

	Budget Year to date		Actual Year to date	Variance Dollar	%	
Combined Revenues and Expenditures						
Revenues	\$ 161,649,503	\$	129,056,202	\$ (32,593,300)	-20%	
Expenditures	 (161,187,333)		(127,723,914)	33,463,418	-21%	
Change in Combined Fund Balance	\$ 462,170	\$	1,332,287	\$ 870,118		

Change in Fund Balance by Fund Type			
Change in fund balance - General Fund \$	60,364 \$	139,175 \$	78,811
nge in fund balance - Gulf Coast Regional 911	373,129	922,075	548,946
Change in fund balance - Enterprise Fund	102,185	271,037	168,852
Total Change in Fund Balances \$	535,678 \$	1,332,287 \$	796,609

Variance Analysis

The presentation of the change in fund balance by fund type is intended to highlight the effects of revenue and expenditure transactions by fund. The General Fund (GF) consists of those funds not associated with grant programs or enterprise activities. The Special Revenue Fund (SRF) consists of those funds that are restricted for a specific purpose. HGAC's grant programs are in this fund. The Enterprise Fund is used to track activities of the Cooperative Purchasing program and the Energy Purchasing Corporation. The variances of specific revenues and expenditures are explained on the second page of this report.

*** The Cooperative Purchasing program has contributed a \$288,283 increase toward the Enterprise fund balance YTD, and the Energy Purchasing Corporation is reflecting a (\$17,246) decrease to the Enterprise fund balance.

HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT For the Five Months Ended May 2021

			Budget Year to		Actual Year to			Variance	
		nnual Budget	Date		Date			Dollar	%
venues									
General and Enterprise Fund									
Membership dues (a)	\$	395,538	\$	395,538	\$	113,652	\$	(281,886)	-71%
HGAC Energy Purchasing Corporation (b)		90,000		37,500		26,674		(10,826)	-29%
Cooperative Purchasing fees		5,500,000		2,291,667		1,983,465		(308,202)	-13%
Gulf Coast Regional 911 fees		4,036,797		1,681,999		1,822,171		140,173	8%
Interest Income [c)		35,000		14,583		475		(14,108)	-97%
Other (d)		3,981,468		1,658,945		2,170,869		511,924	31%
Total General and Enterprise Fund revenues	\$	14,038,803	\$	6,080,232	\$	6,117,306	\$	37,074	1%
Special Revenue Fund									
Federal Grant (e)	\$	3,556,065	\$	1,481,694	\$	103,457	\$	(1,378,237)	-93%
State Grants		369,810,185		154,087,577		122,835,437		(31,252,140)	-20%
Total Special Revenue Fund revenues	\$	373,366,250	\$	155,569,271	\$	122,938,894	\$	(32,630,377)	-21%
Total Revenues	\$	387,405,053	\$	161,649,503	\$	129,056,200	\$	(32,593,302)	-20%
penditures_									
Personnel	\$	27,608,829	\$	11,503,679	\$	11,117,152	\$	(386,527)	-3%
Pass-through funds - grant		341,090,281		142,120,950		112,189,513		(29,931,437)	-21%
Consultant and contract services		11,480,098		4,783,374		2,458,988		(2,324,386)	-49%
Lease of office space		1,791,142		746,309		731,871		(14,438)	-2%
Equipment		1,677,448		698,937		167,030		(531,906)	-76%
Travel (f)		327,205		136,335		16,170		(120,165)	-88%
Other expense		2,874,595		1,197,748		1,043,189		(154,559)	-13%
Total Expenditures	\$	386,849,598	\$	161,187,333	\$	127,723,913	\$	(33,463,419)	-21%
Excess of Revenues over(under) Expenditures	\$	555,455	\$	462,170	¢	1,332,287	\$	870,117	

Variances:

- a) We have been in contact with entities that have outstanding dues, and we anticipate payment soon.
- b). The Energy Purchasing Corporation will not meet revenue projections this year. Enrollment in the service is down and usage is also down.
- c). Interest income is down due to the Federal Reserve holding interest rates low. Adjustment to interest income projections will be made at the mid-year budget review.
- d) Other revenue includes the EDA loan program that has seen increased activity due to COVID related funds being made available to small businessesl. These funds were not originally in H-GAC's budget and will need to be included in the mid-year revision.
- e) Federal pass-through revenue and expense in an EPA program administered by the Transportation department is off to a slow start for the year. We will review and revise the anticipated progress on this grant during the budget revision process.
- f) The travel budget was anticipating that Covid restrictions would end in 2021. We are starting to see some easing of restrictions and requests for in-person events that include in-region and out-of-region travel, so we expect that our expenses will increase later in the year.

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

ATTACHMENTS:

EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN AUDIT

ATTACHMENTS:

WORKFORCE SYSTEM CONTRACT – CONSTRUCTION CAREER COLLABORATIVE

Background

The construction industry is an important sector in the greater Houston-Gulf Coast economy. With more than 206,000 jobs in residential, commercial, industrial, and heavy/civil construction, this industry continues to be a driver for our region, and the Gulf Coast Workforce Board looks to make strategic investments to support employers and workers in construction.

As a part of the investment strategy, we issued two requests for proposals: the first, to assist small and medium-sized construction businesses in talent acquisition, development and retention; and the second, to educate young people about the careers in construction, including skilled craft occupations. We received two proposals for the first request, and one for the second request.

Current Situation

At its June 1 meeting, the Gulf Coast Workforce Board approved a contract with the Construction Career Collaborative to support small and medium-sized construction employers with talent acquisition, talent development, and human resources consulting services and to promote construction industry jobs and skilled trades occupations among young people with industry awareness events in the local schools.

Construction Career Collaborative is a local non-profit, labor-neutral alliance of owners, contractors, specialty contractors, design professionals and industry associations collaborating to establish a safe, skilled, and sustainable craft workforce. The Collaborative grew out of the Houston chapter of Associated General Contractors.

The Collaborative will serve a minimum of 200 companies in the first year and reach at least 1,500 young people in 11 school districts throughout the region.

We are requesting authority to contract with the Collaborative for a three-year term, with \$364,511 for the first year. Second and third year contracts would be contingent upon satisfactory performance, availability of funds, and Board approval.

Funding Source

Texas Workforce Commission

Budgeted

Yes

Action Requested

Request authorization to contract with Construction Career Collaborative; total amount is \$364,511 in the first year, with an option to renew for two additional years. (Staff Contact: Mike Temple)

CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 WORK PROGRAM

Background

The Texas Clean Rivers Program is a partnership among the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), regional agencies, and local governments, with the aim of improving the quality of surface water that flows through our landscapes, cities and towns. Since 1992, H-GAC has been the lead agency responsible for implementing the Texas Clean Rivers Program in four major basins that cover over 66% of the H-GAC region (see Attachment). These four basins cover all or part of each of the 13 counties and 136 of the cities in our service area. The work that H-GAC conducts, under contract with the TCEQ, includes water quality monitoring, analysis, stakeholder involvement and public awareness.

Current Situation

H-GAC has worked with TCEQ and local partners to develop the following two-year work plan, under which we will:

- Conduct water quality assessments that address specific concerns of local governments and other stakeholders.
- Continue serving as a water quality "data clearinghouse" for environmental agencies, local governments and the public.
- Coordinate multiple state and local agencies in the planning and implementation of water quality monitoring programs.
- Provide data to support TCEQ in evaluating permits for wastewater treatment and conducting Total Maximum Daily Load studies.
- Continue to produce and distribute high quality publications to raise public awareness of water quality issues.

This work will begin on September 1, 2021 and continue until August 31, 2023.

Funding Source

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Budgeted

Yes

Action Requested

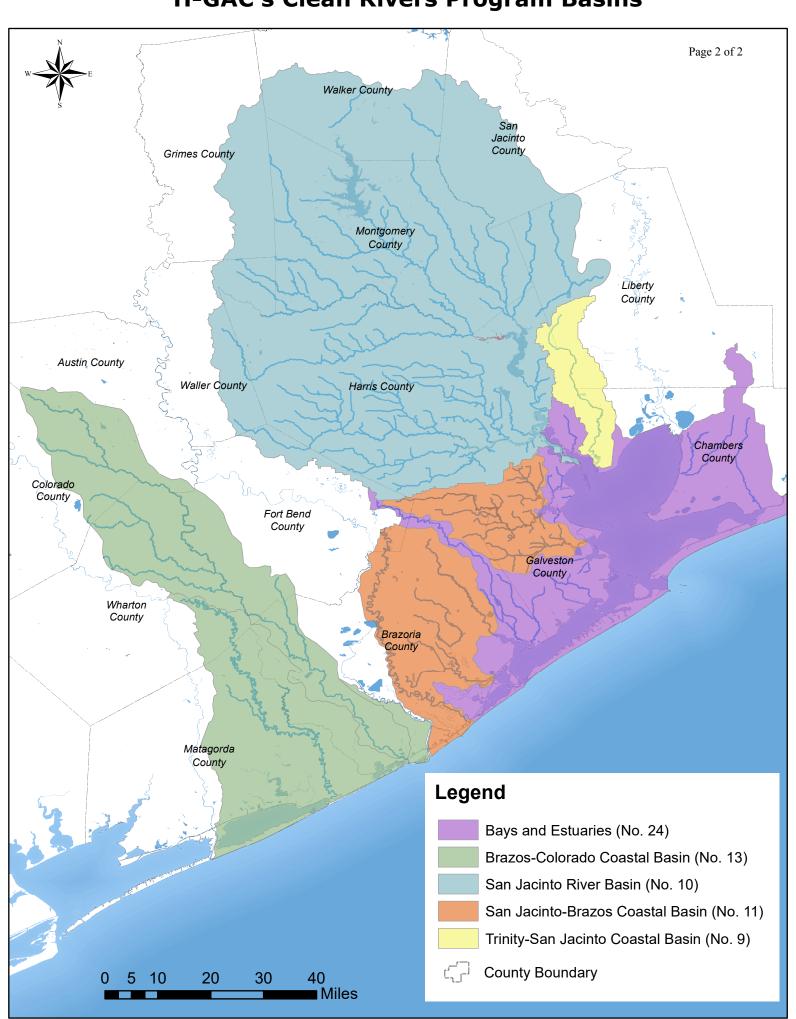
Request authorization to contract with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for regional water quality monitoring; total amount is \$1,931,230. (Staff Contact: Todd Running)

ATTACHMENTS:

Map of Clean Rivers Basins

Cover Memo

H-GAC's Clean Rivers Program Basins



CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM WATER QUALITY MONITORING SUBCONTRACTS

Background

Since 1992, H-GAC has been the lead agency responsible for implementing the Texas Clean Rivers Program in four major basins covering over 66% of the H-GAC region. To fill gaps and focus on problem areas, H-GAC coordinates with local agencies and subcontracts with local governments, institutions, and consultants to collect data from their existing sampling programs.

Current Situation

During Fiscal Year 2020-2021, H-GAC contracted with the City of Houston Department of Health and Human Services, the Environmental Institute of Houston at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, and the Texas Research Institute for Environmental Studies at Sam Houston State University to provide a variety of water quality monitoring services. H-GAC's Clean Rivers Program Steering Committee has recommended reissuing subcontracts contracts to these providers.

Under these subcontracts, the City of Houston will continue water quality monitoring within the city and its extraterritorial jurisdiction at seventy-three sites. The Environmental Institute of Houston will conduct quarterly water quality monitoring at seventy-five sites in selected areas of the region where there is no local monitoring program. Sites are located in Harris, Chambers, Galveston, Brazoria, Matagorda, Wharton, and Colorado Counties. The Texas Research Institute for Environmental Studies would conduct quarterly monitoring at ten sites in the upper reaches of streams in Walker and Montgomery Counties. All data will be collected under an approved Quality Assurance Project Plan. Monitoring activities will commence in September 2021 and continue through August 31, 2023.

The proposed budgets for each subcontract are as follows:

\$140,000 - City of Houston Health & Human Services

\$131,225 - Environmental Institute of Houston - UH Clear Lake

\$21,400 - Texas Research Institute for Environmental Studies at Sam Houston State University

Funding Source

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Budgeted

Yes

Action Requested

Request authorization to contract with the City of Houston Department of Health and Human Services, Environmental Institute of Houston; University of Houston-Clear Lake; and the Texas Research Institute for Environmental Studies for Water Quality Monitoring Services; combined total amount is \$292,625. (Staff Contact: Todd Running)

CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM LABORATORY SUBCONTRACT

Background

Since 1992, H-GAC has been the lead agency responsible for the Texas Clean Rivers Program in four of the H-GAC region's river basins. This work is performed under contract with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. H-GAC coordinates with local agencies to collect data from their existing sampling programs and also subcontracts with local governments, institutions, and consultants to fill gaps and focus on problem areas.

Current Situation

During Fiscal Year 2020-2021, H-GAC contracted with Eastex Environmental Laboratory to conduct laboratory analysis of water samples and other related services. This contract was the result of a competitive bid process in which a Request for Proposal was published in May 2019. This contract allowed for a 24-month extension based on satisfactory performance, which staff is proposing to exercise.

On a quarterly basis, this lab will analyze approximately 730 water quality samples collected by local Clean Rivers Program partners. These activities will commence on September 1, 2021 and continue through August 31, 2023.

Funding Source

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Budgeted

Yes

Action Requested

Request authorization to execute contract with Eastex Environmental Laboratory; total amount is \$127,000. (Staff Contact: Todd Running)

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE UPDATE

Background

The H-GAC Board of Directors Water Resources Committee has been working to identify and support flood mitigation projects of regional significance for H-GAC's 13 counties. The committee will also be responsible for making a recommendation to the Board of Directors on developing a Method of Distribution for allocating regional Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation funds within the H-GAC region.

Current Situation

The Water Resources Committee met on June 9, 2021. The committee voted to recommend the addition of the following Tier 1 project to the H-GAC Priority Flood Mitigation Projects list and to authorize H-GAC staff to work with the involved jurisdictions in further developing the project for a potential funding application:

Brazos River Pinch Point Project.

This project would use structural barriers to prevent further erosion of a new channel through a pinch point of the Brazos River near Simonton, at a cost of \$25.8 million. The barriers would protect area landowners and communities, prevent higher river velocities downstream, and ensure the viability of the Allen's Creek Reservoir project (Fort Bend County, Missouri City, Richmond, Rosenberg, Simonton, Sugar Land, Thompsons, Weston Lakes).

The committee also recommended the Board of Directors authorize the Executive Director to work with H-GAC member governments to appeal to the Federal Emergency Management Agency to delay implementation of its new National Flood Insurance Program risk rating program until its impact on levee protected properties can be clarified and work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on a levee rating system.

Other discussion items included a review of potential funding opportunities under the American Rescue Plan Act, a status report on the Method of Distribution for the Regional Mitigation Program, and an overview of the services available to local governments by the American Flood Coalition.

Funding Source

N/A

Budgeted

N/A

Action Requested

Discussion and possible action on Water Resources Committee recommendations. (Staff Contact: Jeff Taebel)

Priority Flood Projects List

Cover Memo

H-GAC PRIORITY FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECTS Proposed Update: H-GAC Board of Directors June 15, 2021

The H-GAC Board of Directors has approved this project priority list, grouped into priority tiers indicating the level of engagement and support H-GAC could provide. This list will be regularly reviewed and updated, as necessary.

TIER 1: Projects benefitting multiple jurisdictions for which there are specific opportunities for H-GAC to provide support, coordination, or to serve as the lead in securing funding.

Cedar Bayou Alliance – Judge Sylvia of Chambers County appointed H-GAC to lead a coalition of governments and industry in the Cedar Bayou watershed of Harris, Chambers, and Liberty Counties to identify joint flood mitigation projects. H-GAC has been working with Cedar Bayou Alliance partners to identify and promote projects of shared priority and to coordinate activities among the entities involved. Longer term steps may include creating a special district/authority to develop revenue and implement resiliency projects in the watershed (*Harris, Liberty and Chambers Counties; Cities of Baytown, Mont Belvieu*).

Lower Colorado River and San Bernard River Flood Warning System – Wharton, Colorado, and Matagorda Counties, and the Cities of Bay City, Columbus, and Wharton, along with the Lower Colorado River Authority, have collaborated on a study of the Lower Colorado River, post-Harvey. This project involves new inundation maps that can be used to enhance flood warning information. H-GAC and Wharton County are considering potential funding opportunities to mirror this modeling and mapping project in the San Bernard River and Caney Creek Watersheds and install river gauges in both Lower Colorado and San Bernard systems (*Austin, Brazoria, Colorado, Fayette, Fort Bend, Lee, Matagorda, Wharton*).

Chambers County and City of Mont Belvieu Flood Protection Planning for Watersheds Chambers County and the Cities of Liberty, Dayton and Mont Belvieu, in coordination with other local entities, are seeking funding and additional partners for a proposed flood protection planning project for approximately 900 miles of watersheds in Chambers, Liberty, Galveston, Harris, and Jefferson Counties. The project will develop hydrologic models for the study area and produce inundation maps for a variety of storm events. The project will also seek to identify areas of highest risk, recommend flood mitigation measures to address them and develop planning level estimates of provable costs. (*Chambers, Liberty, Harris, Galveston, and Jefferson counties; Cities of Mont Belvieu, Liberty and Dayton*).

Lower Brazos Flood Protection Planning Study –Includes analysis of medium- to large-scale structural solutions and buyouts, and recommendations for additional modeling, engineering, and environmental studies that benefit parts of the region along the lower Brazos River. The study involved several of H-GAC's local governments and includes some projects inside the region and others that, while outside the region, would benefit H-GAC counties and their communities (*Fort Bend, Brazoria, Austin, and Waller Counties*).

Brazos River Pinch Point Project.

This project would use structural barriers to prevent further erosion of a new channel through a pinch point of the Brazos River near Simonton, at a cost of \$25.8 million. The barriers would

protect area landowners and communities, prevent higher river velocities downstream, and ensure the viability of the Allen's Creek Reservoir project (Fort Bend County, Missouri City, Richmond, Rosenberg, Simonton, Sugar Land, Thompsons, Weston Lakes).

TIER 2: Projects that H-GAC endorses which benefit individual or multiple jurisdictions and for which funding already exists or is programmed.

Clear Creek and Dickinson Bayou Study – Multiple local partners are working with the US Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a \$1.5 million flood mitigation study of the Clear Creek and Dickinson Bayou watersheds of Galveston County. The current local participants include League City, Friendswood, Harris County Flood Control District, and Galveston County, with Brazoria County and Pearland as potential contributing participants. The study began in 2019 and is undergoing public review of preliminary results (https://www.leaguecity.com/3645/Lower-Clear-Creek-Dickinson-Bayou-Waters) (Covered areas noted in description).

Metropolitan Houston Regional Watershed Assessment – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is conducting a 22-watershed assessment of drainage planning and flood mitigation in the Houston area in conjunction with the Harris County Flood Control District and other local partners (22 watersheds in Harris County and adjacent counties).

Southeast Texas Flood Control District – Liberty and Chambers counties are participating in ongoing flood control studies and efforts as part of an 8-county southeast Texas area effort that also includes several area river authorities. Additional work is ongoing through 2021 as a continuation of these studies (*Liberty and Chambers Counties; areas outside the region*).

Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) Bond Projects – Projects arising from HCFCD's <u>2018 bond program</u> are moving forward throughout the county, and the District is coordinating with local partners (*Harris County*).

Harris County Flood Tunnel Study – the first phase of the study identified flood tunnels as a viable flood management option to study further. The second phase is currently underway, looking at potential routing, and will complete soon. A third phase looking at more specific design will take an additional 12-18 months (*Harris County*).

San Jacinto Regional Watershed Master Drainage Plan – multiple local jurisdictions worked to develop the San Jacinto Regional Watershed Master Drainage Plan. Using Atlas 14 rainfall data to develop inundation maps and estimates of impacted areas, the plan identified flood mitigation projects and policies that can be implemented in the near- and long-term to reduce flood risks to people and property throughout the San Jacinto watershed. (Harris County Flood Control District, San Jacinto River Authority, Montgomery County, City of Houston).

TIER 3: Projects that do not currently have specific components identified that could be advanced for funding. H-GAC will continue to track progress on these projects and provide coordination or support as warranted.

River Authority Flood Mitigation Implementation—The committee discussed the potential future role for river authorities to implement flood mitigation planning and implementation activities. San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) is considering this type of approach and also developing a <u>Flood Forecasting and Reservoir Operations Tool</u> to help predict peak releases from Lake Conroe and better coordinate with local emergency management entities. The expected completion is Spring, 2021 (*Montgomery and Harris Counties; additional counties covered by other Authorities*).

Flood Upgrades – Fort Bend County – Fort Bend County is working to improve its flood readiness by incorporating Atlas 14 into its infrastructure planning and design and flood risk assessments as part of an interim drainage criteria manual. Portions of Fort Bend County, especially those areas impacted by Barker Reservoir during Hurricane Harvey, have also been the focus of several recent studies and efforts, including a 2018 study on the feasibility of a levee on the western end of Barker reservoir and a 2019 desilting project (*Fort Bend County*).

Summary of Projects by Tier and H-GAC Local Governments Benefitting

Tier 1	H-GAC Local Governments Benefitting
Cedar Bayou Alliance	Harris, Liberty and Chambers Counties; Cities of
	Baytown and Mont Belvieu.
Lower Colorado River and San Bernard	Portions of Austin, Brazoria, Colorado, Fort Bend,
River Flood Warning System	Matagorda, and Wharton counties and cities
	therein; portions of Fayette and Lee Counties
	outside of H-GAC region.
Chambers County and City of Mont Belvieu	Chambers, Liberty, Harris, Galveston, and
Flood Protection Planning for Watersheds	Jefferson Counties; Cities of Mont Belvieu, Liberty
	and Dayton.
Lower Brazos Flood Protection Planning	Areas within the Lower Brazos River watershed;
Study	including some outside the region.
Brazos River Pinch Point Project	Fort Bend County, Missouri City, Richmond,
	Rosenberg, Simonton, Sugar Land, Thompsons,
	Weston Lakes
Tier 2	
Clear Creek and Dickinson Bayou Study	Areas in Harris and Galveston County, League
	City, Friendswood and other area municipalities
	within the Clear Creek and Dickinson Bayou
Maria Harris David Harris 1 1	watersheds.
Metropolitan Houston Regional Watershed	22 watersheds in Harris, Chambers, Liberty,
Assessment	Galveston, Brazoria, Fort Bend County,
C. day T Flack Control D'Aria	Montgomery, and Waller Counties.
Southeast Texas Flood Control District	Liberty and Chambers Counties; six (6) other
	southeast Texas counties outside the region; River
Hamis County Flac & County District	authorities in the study area.
Harris County Flood Control District	Harris County
(HCFCD) Bond Projects	Hamis County
Harris County Flood Tunnel Study	Harris County

San Jacinto River Master Drainage Plan	Harris County, Montgomery County, City of	
	Houston, other local governments and organizations	
	in the San Jacinto River Basin above Highway I-10.	
Tier 3		
River Authority Flood Mitigation	Harris and Montgomery Counties, potentially other	
Implementation	river authorities and counties.	
Flood Upgrades Fort Bend County	Areas within Fort Bend County,	
	including those impacted by Barker Reservoir.	

H-GAC 2021 ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Background

H-GAC advisory committees are appointed by H-GAC's Board as a whole, based upon nominations from individual Board members and other groups. This month there are nominations to the Aging and Disability Advisory Committee, Area Emission Reduction Credit Organization, Gulf Coast Economic Development District, Regional Air Quality Planning Advisory Committee, Regional Flood Management Committee, Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Council, and Solid Waste Management Committee.

Current Situation

N/A

Funding Source

N/A

Budgeted

N/A

Action Requested

Request approval of appointments to H-GAC advisory committees. (Staff Contact: Rick Guerrero)

ATTACHMENTS:

H-GAC JUNE 2021 ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Cover Memo

H-GAC JUNE 2021 ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Aging and Disability Advisory Committee

Advise H-GAC Board on needs, services, and programs for older citizens in 12 H-GAC counties (all but Harris).

Nominations received for terms expiring December 2023:

Name	Representing	Nominated by
Dessie F. Cherry	At-Large	Mayor Brauninger
Kimberly M. Willis, M. Ed.	Wharton County	Judge Spenrath

Area Emission Reduction Credit Organization

Promote coexistence of air quality improvement and economic development by generating and trading emission reduction credits.

Nominations received for terms expiring May 2024:

Name	Representing	Nominated by
Edward Lewis	Harris County-Large Industry	Commissioner Garcia
Dr. Denae King	Harris County-Environmental/	Commissioner Garcia
	Economic Development	
Malcolm Richards	Harris County-Environmental/	Commissioner Garcia
	Economic Development	

Gulf Coast Economic Development District

Provides oversight to H-GAC's economic development planning program.

Nomination received for term expiring May 2024:

Name	Representing	Nominated by
Joshua Owens	Wharton County	Judge Spenrath

Regional Air Quality Planning Advisory Committee

Advises the H-GAC Board, local governments, and state agencies on regional air quality issues.

Nominations received for terms expiring June 2022:

Name	Representing	Nominated by
Trae Campbell (Primary)	Business/Industry	Port Houston
Ken Gathright (Alt.)	Business/Industry	Port Houston
David Douglas (Alt.)	Local Government	Judge Knight
Ananth Sundareshwar (Alt.)	Local Government	Judge Duhon

Regional Air Quality Planning Advisory Committee (cont.)

Nominations received for terms expiring June 2023:

Name	Representing	Nominated by
Nguyen Ly (Primary)	Local Government	Council Member Alcorn
Darryl Tate (Alt.)	Local Government	Council Member Alcorn
Win Colbert (Primary)	Local Government	Council Member Alcorn
Lara Cottingham (Alt.)	Local Government	Council Member Alcorn

Regional Flood Management Committee

The Regional Flood Management Council's purpose is to assist and advise elected officials in their decision-making responsibilities by making recommendations on issues related to all aspects of flood management in the Gulf Coast Planning Region.

Nominations received for terms expiring May 2022:

Name	Representing	Nominated by
Peggy Zahler (Primary)	City of League City	Mayor Hallisey
Christopher Sims (Alt.)	City of League City	Mayor Hallisey

Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Council

Coordinates local planning for Homeland Security.

Nominations received for terms expiring May 2023:

Name	Representing	Nominated by
Ian Patin (Primary)	Brazoria County	Judge Sebesta
Amy Fletcher (Alt.)	Brazoria County	Judge Sebesta

Solid Waste Management Committee

Advises H-GAC Board and its member local governments on solid waste management issues.

Nominations received for terms expiring in May 2022:

Name	Representing	Nominated by
Stacie Henderson (Primary)	At-Large	Mayor Zimmerman
Diego Linares (Alt.)	At-Large	Mayor Zimmerman

Nominations received for terms expiring in May 2023:

Name	Representing	Nominated by
Rhonda Hanks (Primary)	Citizen/Environment	Mayor Brauninger
Adrian Hernandez (Primary)	Non-Profit	Mayor Cole
Lenora Tollefson (Alt.)	Non-Profit	Mayor Cole

Solid Waste Management Committee (cont.)

Nominations received for terms expiring in May 2023:

Name	Representing	Nominated by
Candace Seger (Primary)	Industry	SWMC
Darien Ross (Alt.)	Industry	SWMC

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Background

The H-GAC Legislative Committee consists of 14 members representing cities, counties, and school districts from throughout the region. The Legislative Committee, chaired by Judge Nate McDonald of Matagorda County, studies state and federal legislation that may have an impact on the region and reports to the Board of Directors.

Current Situation

The 87th legislative session adjourned on May 31. The Texas House and Senate introduced over 6,800 bills. H-GAC staff monitored over 100 bills with a potential impact on H-GAC programs or operations.

Funding Source

N/A

Budgeted

N/A

Action Requested

Report from Legislative Committee. No action necessary. (Contact: Chair, Judge Nate McDonald)

H-GAC SPOTLIGHT – REGIONAL BACTERIA REDUCTION PLANS

Background

The single largest water quality issue in the 13-county H-GAC Service Area is elevated levels of fecal bacteria. In fact, nearly 50 percent of stream miles in the H-GAC service area are impacted by fecal bacteria level that are higher than the contact recreation standard. The Clean Water Act requires the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to address impaired waters through watershed-based management planning. A total maximum daily load project is one of the state's planning efforts used to improve water quality in the region. A total maximum daily load project determines the number of fecal bacteria that a waterbody can support while still maintaining the contact recreation standard. Any concentration of fecal bacteria above the total maximum daily load then needs to be reduced. The actions and activities that are used to reduce fecal bacteria are determined by stakeholders within each watershed through development of an implementation plan.

Current Situation

There are currently 11 total maximum daily load projects that address fecal bacteria within the H-GAC Service Area. H-GAC staff work with local stakeholders to develop total maximum daily loads and identify voluntary measures to reduce bacteria. We have seen success in reducing bacteria levels through the voluntary actions being carried out by local governments, non-profits and residents, some of which include:

- conducting targeted monitoring to identify sources of bacteria;
- addressing sanitary sewer system overflows;
- applying green infrastructure practices to detention and development;
- repairing and replacing septic systems; and
- providing targeted outreach and technical assistance.

Staff will also discuss two success stories that highlight the reductions in bacteria we are seeing in the region. The first will be on the watershed level and show reductions that have been attained by the removal of failing septic systems in a management district by connecting them to a centralized wastewater plant. The second will highlight the overall success of the Bacteria Implementation Group's regional bacteria implementation plan, noting that there is a lot of future work to do.

For more information about this program, please contact Steven Johnston at steven.johnston@h-gac.com or 832-681-2579.

Funding Source

N/A

Budgeted

N/A

Action Requested

No action requested. For information only. (Staff Contact: Steven Johnston)

CURRENT AND UPCOMING H-GAC ACTIVITIES

Background

N/A

Current Situation

N/A

Funding Source

N/A

Budgeted

N/A

Action Requested

Report on current and upcoming H-GAC activities. (Staff Contact: Chuck Wemple)

2021 H-GAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ISDs

Trustee Rissie Owens, Huntsville ISD Trustee Jennifer Key, Alief ISD

Note: Names of Alternates are indented

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City of Dickinson

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H-GAC-4/27/2021

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